London April 11 1860
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My dear Gray

I have been a long while answering several of your letters and thanking you for all the trouble you have had about my paper on the Hong Kong Flora – but I have had much to occupy me. besides private affairs that have worried me. and I thought I would wait till I could say that I had received the MS – I now know that Prof Cooke has arrived and has the parcel with him and I shall no doubt get it in a day or two or perhaps find it tomorrow at Kew where I have not been since last Thursday. I am going on with the Hong Kong Flora in English. but it is a great addition having to give. generic characters as I find it will no more do to copy generic characters from books without verification than to write out specific diagnoses – I also devote part of the week to Genera Plantarum at which Hooker is working hard. We hope to get out Thalamiflorae in the end of summer

He describes a Fagus as a new genus of Sapindaceae – a common Mexican Clethra as a new genus of Ternstroemiaceae the Glycosmis citrifolia as a new Moniquia etc etc etc. He is getting as bad as Presl and Steudel were

I am much puzzled with the aestivation character in Anonaceae which Hook & Thoms have adopted in Flora Indica. the S. American Guatteria have mostly imbricate petals but not ~~all~~ always the outer ones – Uvaria Brasiliensis is a very distinct plant – but Schlechtendahl's Mexican Uvaria ([illegible]) seems to come very near in character to Asimina and Porcelia – unfortunately I have no good examinable ~~plants~~ specimens either of Porcelia or of the Mexican plant. Have you? and can you assist me?

Darwin's book has made a great stir here – that and Dr. Hooker's Essay on the Australian Flora made me defer printing the paper I read at the Linnean apropos of the British Flora. because some of my views have become partially modified by his reasoning – the consequence has been that much that I said in that paper is now out of date – and it must be rewritten before it can be printed – and that is now out of the question

Ever yours sincerely

George Bentham

Your account stands thus

1859 May	Linnean Journal 2d Supplement to vol. 3 7 copies at 1/6		10..6
	Spruce's Tarapoto plants 238 sp.		4..15..0
Nov	Linnean Journal vol 4, 2 copies complete + 5 Botany		2..8..0
1860 March	do Supplement to vol 4, 7 cop. at 3/9		1..6..3
			8..19..9
	On the other hand		
	Printer's acct	4..5..0	
	Fendler's Papilionaceae	3..0..0	
	do Mimoseae + Caesalpineae	2..5..6	9..10..6
	which leaves due from me to be carried to a fresh account		10..9

Fendler's Papilionaceae arrived about 10 days or a fortnight ago I have not yet had time to open the parcel but will look them through and in laying them out note ~~read you~~ the names to send to you — at the same time that I name another parcel of Leguminosae that has been sent to me for the purpose

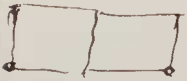
As to Wright's Cuban Leguminosae I must forego them — indeed I was rather hasty in ordering Fendler's — I have so many calls on my income under present circumstances that I can ill afford to bestow much of it on the Kew Establishment — towards which Sir W. Hooker contributes so much from his own pocket.

I have been working up Ternstroemiaceae and read a few notes at the Linnean the other day, taking a very different view of them from Choisy — and including Marcgraviaceae as a tribe — I make a tribe too of Saurauja Actinidia and Stachyurus although these genera connect them on the one hand with Dillenia (which is exceptional in Dilleniaceae) on the other with Ericeae — I fear your Draytonia cannot stand as distinct from Saurauja — S. Napalensis and several others have the styles more or less united — and the same diversity of free or united styles occurs in 5 or 6 Ternstroemiaceous genera. — Have you seen Turczaninow's last batch of genera and species in the Bull. Mosc. for 1858 + 1859?

[1860].

April 13th I found yesterday at Kew yours of the   and note all you say of Gen. Pl. for when we revise for press - We should have liked to have given references - but that would have required a degree of literary research which would have entirely defeated our object of getting out within a reasonable time a consultable enumeration of all phenogamic genera - every one must have DC. & Walp. & other references must be looked for there, where however there has been a complete enumeration of species in any work subsequent to Walpers & often where species have been added we refer to that - although we cannot refer to all species published since Walpers - that must be left to future volumes of that work - where also a complete enumeration is given in a late vol of Walpers we do not refer back to the preceeding ones or to DC. ~~[illegible]~~

We have lately received specimens of Buergeria from Wilford with ripe fruits which are nearly square



the stigmata being on the lower outer corners. We have also from Wilford a splendid new Trollius from Mantchuria with linear petals longer than the sepals

I cannot distinguish Sphaerostemma generically from Schizandra the Japanese species which is Maximowitchs from Mantchuria being intermediate and the Sphaerostemmas may be as well said to be 5-merous as 3-merous. It is impossible to tell precisely where the sepals end and the petals begin – the anthers are different in every species and either we must have as many genera almost as species or unite them all into one.

Prof Cooke has not yet left the parcel that I can hear of but I suppose I shall have it soon,